

# Congressional Art Competition Guidelines

## General Guidelines

- The competition is open to high school students only. [To be eligible, students' homes must lie within the Sixth Congressional District of Minnesota.](#) The Sixth District includes all of Benton, Sherburne and Wright county, as well as parts of Anoka, Hennepin (Hanover and Rockford), Stearns, and Washington county.
- In order to allow a work of art to hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol, the following restrictions are necessary:
  - Two-dimensional only.
  - Artwork must arrive in Washington framed to the appropriate framing guidelines, however, artwork does not need to be framed, only matted to enter the District competition.
  - Each work of art can be no larger than 32 inches by 32 inches to the outside dimensions of the frame.
  - Artwork cannot be more than 4 inches in depth.
- Art work categories are as follows:
  - Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
  - Drawings: pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers, etc.
  - Collage: must be two dimensional
  - Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints
  - Mixed media
  - Computer generated art
  - Photography
- **Each entry must be an original in concept, design and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws.**
  - An attached form must be signed by the teacher and the student to certify the originality of the piece, before sending to Washington.
  - NOTE: Any entry which has been reproduced from an existing photo, painting or any other work produced by another person is a violation of the competition rules and WILL NOT be accepted.

## Suitability Guidelines

Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission. In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or of a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed. While it is not the intent to censor any artwork, we do wish to avoid the situation of hanging artwork that is potentially controversial and inappropriate for display in the Capitol. All artwork will be reviewed by a panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the Capitol. Any portions not in consonance with the Commission's policy will be omitted from the exhibit per the panel's discretion.

# Framing Guidelines

As directed by the House Oversight and Standards of Official Conduct Committees, each district winner is responsible for framing his or her winning entry. Unframed matted artwork will be accepted for the District Competition, but the winning entry must be framed before it is sent to Washington. Any hardship cases should be assisted at the district level; works cannot be framed by the Architect of the Capitol.

- Framed work should be no larger than 32 inches high, 32 inches wide, and 4 inches deep including the outside dimensions of the frame. **Please double check size before sending the entry to Washington.**
- Frames should be as simple and as sturdy as possible. **Metal frames are recommended.**
- Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully prepared.
- All work, except for oil paintings, should be protected by Plexiglas or glass.
- Plexiglas is better to use than glass over the artwork in order to avoid breakage. If glass is used, cover the entire surface completely with masking tape prior to shipping.
- Use sturdy hangers. Two hooks should be attached at the top and at the right and the left sides of the back of the work in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly.
- **No “snap on” frames with glass are to be used.**
- Since frames will be suspended by wire from overhead molding, please do not put wire between the hooks.
- Do not attach labels, ribbon, etc. to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglas.
- If the artwork is abstract in design, please indicate on the backside which side is up.
- A copy of the enclosed Student Information Form must be taped to the back of the artwork before sending it to our district office.  
The Student Privacy Release Form will be attached to the back of the artwork with an adhesive label by the district office, before sending it to Washington.

If you have any questions, please contact [Becca Pease](#) at 763-684-1600.

To verify that a student lives in the Sixth Congressional District, please use the Secretary of State’s Polling Place Finder at <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>. After entering the student’s address, if it lists the precinct’s US House district as “06,” the student is eligible to enter their artwork. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Buffalo office at 763-684-1600.